

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera, comprising:

an image capturing device that stores a signal electrical charge achieved by performing photoelectric conversion on a subject image projected on a photosensitive surface and reads out the signal electrical charge to generate an image signal; ~~and~~

a photographing preparation device that executes photographing preparations including a mechanical operation for photoelectric conversion performed at said image capturing ~~device, wherein device; and~~

a mirror mechanism, wherein:

said photographic preparations include a mirror down performed by said mirror mechanism, and

said photographic preparation device executes at least ~~some of said~~ photographing preparations the mirror down performed by said mirror mechanism for photographing a next frame during an electrical charge read period at said image capturing device.

2. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

at least one of a shutter mechanism, ~~a mirror mechanism~~, an aperture mechanism, and a focal adjustment device, wherein

said photographing preparations for the next frame further include at least one of a shutter charge performed by said shutter mechanism, ~~a mirror down performed by said mirror mechanism~~, a mirror up performed by said mirror mechanism, aperture control performed by said aperture mechanism, focal adjustment performed by said focal adjustment

device and photometry performed by said photometric device, to enable photographing of the next frame.

3. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a shutter ~~mechanism~~, a ~~mirror~~ mechanism and an aperture mechanism,

wherein

said photographing preparation device completes a shutter charge performed by said shutter mechanism and a the mirror down performed by said mirror mechanism to enable photographing of the next frame and starts a mirror up performed by said mirror mechanism and aperture control performed by said aperture mechanism to enable photographing of the next frame during an electrical charge read period at said image capturing device.

4. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a mirror mechanism~~, a focal adjustment device and a photometric device,

wherein

said photographing preparation device completes a the mirror down performed by said mirror mechanism to enable photographing of the next frame and then implements focal adjustment by said focal adjustment device and photometry by said photometric device, during an electrical charge read period at said image capturing device.

5. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a continuous shooting command device that issues a command to perform continuous shooting, wherein

said photographic preparation device executes at least ~~some of the~~  
~~photographing preparations~~ the mirror down performed by said mirror mechanism for the  
next frame during the electrical charge read period at said image capturing device while a  
command to perform continuous shooting issued by said continuous shooting command  
device is in effect.

6. (Original) An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein said  
photographing preparation device includes a drive motor that drives the photographing  
preparation and implements rotational drive of said drive motor during the electrical charge  
read period at said image-capturing device.

7. (Original) An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein said  
photographing preparation device includes a drive motor that sequentially drives a plurality of  
photographing preparations in correspondence to a rotating angle and implements rotational  
drive of said drive motor during the electrical charge read period at said image capturing  
device.

8. (Original) An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein  
operation timing is set in advance at least at either said photographing  
preparation device or said image capturing device to ensure that the electrical charge read  
period does not overlap a period over which a subject image of the next frame is projected  
onto said photosensitive surface.

9. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera, comprising:  
an image-capturing device that stores a signal electrical charge achieved by  
performing photoelectric conversion on a subject image projected on a photosensitive surface  
and reads out the signal electrical charge to generate an image signal; and  
a photographing preparation device that executes photographing preparations  
for photoelectric conversion performed at said image-capturing ~~device, wherein:~~ device; and

a mirror mechanism, wherein:

said photographic preparations include a mirror down performed by said mirror mechanism,

said photographic preparation device executes at least ~~some of said~~  
~~photographing preparations~~ the mirror down performed by said mirror mechanism for  
photographing a next frame during an electrical charge read period at said image-capturing  
device; and

said photographing preparation device performs detection of a completion of a  
signal electrical charge read operation performed by said image capturing device and  
following the detection, projects a subject ~~image~~ image onto said photosensitive surface.

10. (Previously Presented) An electronic camera, comprising:

an image-capturing device that stores a signal electrical charge achieved by  
performing photoelectric conversion on a subject image projected on a photosensitive surface  
and reads out the signal electrical charge to generate an image signal;

a photographing preparation device that executes photographing preparations  
for photoelectric conversion performed at said image-capturing device, wherein said  
photographic preparation device executes at least some of said photographing preparations for  
photographing a next frame during an electrical charge read period at said image-capturing  
device; and

a time count device that measures at least a part of a length of time required  
for the photographing preparation, wherein

at least either said photographing preparation device or said image capturing  
device adjusts operation timing to ensure that a signal electrical charge read period does not  
overlap a period over which a subject image for the next frame is projected onto said

photosensitive surface based upon results of count of the length of required time performed by said time count device.